

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 1, 2004. Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-13 are allowed and claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 14-15 and 17-22 are rejected and Applicants respond as follows.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14-15 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wexler et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,436,567. Claims 14 and 20 are independent and claims 15, 18-19 and 21-22 depend therefrom, respectively. Claims 14, 15 and 18-19 have been amended to clarify the subject matter claimed and as amended recite *inter alia* the steps of removably clamping a fixture to an actuator assembly, operating an actuator assembly so that terminals of a first interface of the fixture electrically interface with terminals on a test device to install the fixture and biasing a circuit board relative to terminals on a second interface of the fixture for test operations.

Claims 14, 15 and 18-21 were rejected *inter alia* on the basis that Wexler discloses a plate 26 with pins 34 having a first interface having a plurality of interface terminals and a second interface having a plurality of interface terminals without providing support or reference in Wexler to an actuator which is operable to provide an electrical interface between terminals of a first interface of plate 26 and a test device ATE and an interface between terminals of a second interface of plate 26 and a printed circuit board 12. Reference to col. 3, lines 44-50 of Wexler does not teach or suggest an actuator to move the fixture so that terminals of a first interface electrically interface with terminals of a test device.

As understood Wexler discloses a vacuum actuator which operates rack and pinion actuator 28-31 to bias terminals of the

second interface relative to the printed circuit board 12 as comparatively illustrated relative to FIGS. 3B-3C. The Office Action does not establish that actuator 28-31 moves plate 26 as comparatively illustrated in FIGS. 3B-3C to provide an electrical interface relative to the test device as set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* basis to reject the subject matter claimed.

Claim 18 further recites *inter alia* the steps of operating an actuator assembly to remove a fixture from a test device, unclamping the fixture from the actuator assembly and removing the fixture and installing a different fixture relative to the test device. Claim 18 was rejected on the basis that the subject of claim 18 is inherently taught by Wexler on the basis that Wexler discloses that its test probe fixture mechanism can be adapted for customized applications. This reference does not teach or suggest the recited elements of claim 18 including the steps of removing the fixture and installing a different fixture relative to the test device. There is no reference in the Office Action that Wexler discloses the steps of removing plate 26 and installing a different plate 26. Thus, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* basis to reject the claimed subject matter and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim 20-22 as amended recite *inter alia* a clamp assembly operable to removably couple a fixture to an actuator assembly and the actuator assembly being operable to install the fixture relative to a test circuit through an electrical interface between the test circuit and a plurality of interface terminals on a first interface of the fixture to provide an electrical interface for a circuit board to the test circuit through a plurality of interface terminal on a second interface of the fixture. As discussed above this is not taught nor suggested by Wexler. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 20-22 are respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wexler et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,436,567 in view of Rabkin U.S. Patent No. 5,828,222. Claims 17 is dependent upon claim 14 and allowance of claim 17 is respectfully requested *inter alia* based upon its dependency on claim 14.

Based upon the foregoing Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 14-15 and 17-22 in addition to allowed claims 1-13 and allowable claim 16.

Respectfully submitted,

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